



Buckles & Bows Square Dance Club



Volume 46, Issue 6

Editors: Pat & Jerry Akers

President's Message

The longer we're away the more I start thinking that the Goebel Center is my favorite place in the world. That's when I start thinking that seeing my very favorite people there every Tuesday night is what really makes it such a special place. As much as we enjoy square dancing we have come to realize that it's really the wonderful friends that we've made thanks to square dancing that we miss. Not being able to have our annual "Sea Breeze" dance has given me a chance to reflect on the great times we've had, as well as the great people we've met in the last 10 years. That event where virtually everyone in Buckles and Bows contributes in some way epitomizes more than anything else what makes us such a great club. Jerry Akers said it best when he compared it to an "old fashioned barn raising" where everyone in the community pitches in to get a job done. Well, we've sure missed that.

Mike and Lisa Seastrom are doing a wonderful job of keeping at least some of us involved with their Tuesday night "Virtual dances" for two couple squares. About 35 folks show up on Zoom including 12 to 15 of our newest dancers. It's incredible to me to see so many of the new dancers every week especially the ones still dancing with their 'Phantom' partners. I can only say that they were apparently able to pick much better phantoms than Nancy and I have been able to. For any of you that haven't given it a try yet we can only tell you that your missing a great opportunity to see some of your friends and have a great time as well.

It may be a ways off but as this virus starts to loosen its grip on our lives we hope to be able to schedule an outdoor activity maybe even a dance. We will keep everyone informed if and when we think it's feasible. In the meantime if you can't join us on Tuesday nights, pick up your phone and give us a call. We'd love to hear how you're doing.

See You On ZOOM.

Bill & Nancy



GOEBEL ADULT
COMMUNITY CENTER



August Birthdays

Bryan Taping
Barabara Brown
Shaiw Chang
Howard Rockstad
Sandy Oberman
Jane Snider
Russ Babbitt
Mark Conn
Ken Bower
Janice Wolfe
Ted Noller
Audrey Debski
MariyIn Kirshenbaum
Bob Chappell
Patti Bundi

August Anniversaries

Frank & Joyce Schaible
Brad & Donna Baker
Jon & Kathy DeForge
Jerry & Pat Akers
Dean & Evelyn Thompson
Steve & Mary Genstil
Herb & Sandy Oberman
Lou & Maria Jambor
John & Clare Sluke
Tony & Suzette DeMarco

Spreading Sunshine

Kathy & Jon
DeForge



Concerns:

Dean Gullekson is recovering from a bicycle mishap.

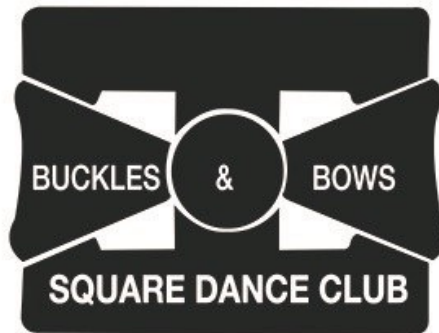
Everyone stay well!!

September Birthdays

Lisa Seastrom
Bev Johnson
Alan Swanson
Andy Denes
Susan Langberg
Allen Bridges
Marlene Lovett
Danielle Fisher
Jon DeForge
Gloria Farley
Red O'Connell
Paulette Clemens
Ernestine Stansbery
Steve Buczynski
Julie Saenz McConnell

September Anniversaries

George & Suzanne Clock
Terry & Paulette Clemens
Javier & Martha Reyes
Allen & Theresa Bridges
Steve & Melody Buczynski
Ken & Dee Bower



Buckles and Bows Board Meetings Continue
by Jerry Akers

Even with social contact curtailed, the club's board continues to meet via ZOOM. Wednesday evening, August 12th, 30 plus people logged in for the board meeting. It is not that we had a lot of specific issues to resolve; but, certainly lots of interest in how and how soon we will all get to join a square.

I offer a few observations.

-The 'mute' button works as good as the gavel. -No one circulated a signup sheet.

-The post meeting refreshments at my house lacked ice cream.



A Note of Thanks

John and Sybil Duhig continue to keep us informed of dance opportunities and other club information. Thank you for your dedicated work.

Planning Continues for the Oct. Campout at Pismo Beach

Wagonmasters Jim & Peggy Magnuson and Brad & Donna Baker are busy making arrangements for the weekend by the beach. Social distancing may crimp the pot luck meals; but, it will not stop the good times.

Thanks from the campers.



CALLERLAB VIEWPOINTS

July 2020

By Mike Seastrom

We have just experienced some of the most challenging few months that most of us have known in our entire life-time. To be isolated and away from others for six and more weeks has been trying to say the least, and a huge change in our lives.

Many of us were lucky enough to find a little silver lining. We've had more time to catch up on projects that we've been putting off, more time to be with family, time to binge watch something on television, or even catch some movies that we've always wanted to see. Having more time with our family, cooking meals at home, and even learning some new tricks in the kitchen has been an unexpected blessing. Some of us were finally able to take care of yard work that needed to be done, enjoyed spring days with family, and even took some walks and met neighbors we didn't know we had.

Many of us found new ways to enjoy our dance activities through online video platforms. Some clubs were even activating phone trees to keep in touch with everyone. Although we've had a huge shift in gears, many of us have had positive experiences and have also learned some interesting life lessons.

I've learned that I miss people, dancers, and being in a room with so many people celebrating. What I mean is that our dance, like many other dances through the ages, is a celebration of life and I've deeply missed that. Don't get me wrong, I have enjoyed evenings at home with my lovely wife and have cherished every minute we have spent together. But I miss dancing and seeing everyone. I have also missed a few good old-fashioned hugs from longtime friends. That touch is more important than most of us realize. It is therapy!

It will be a different world when we return to dance again. We may see masks at our dances out of respect for other dancers, especially if someone you live with has been under the weather. We may see more use of hand sanitizers and even for a while, food that is individually packaged or maybe no food at all. There may be some additional changes in our transition, but I think all of us have learned more things about washing our hands and keeping others safe as well as being safe ourselves.

We have also seen an amazing side of mankind. Our front line of professionals like nurses, doctors, auxiliary staff, grocery store workers, truck drivers and people who we never thought of as heroes, become heroes to us. We have seen people volunteer and help others in ways that are truly inspirational.

Watching this whole pandemic unfold has made me immensely proud to be a member of the human race. It makes me proud to see so many people that have stepped up to the plate to help the less fortunate and to care for those that can no longer care for themselves.

One of the most important consequences of all this is that many of us have learned what a precious social activity we have and how enjoyable it is to share an evening with others who are also attempting to stay active and have fun. The ability to have courteous contact with other people from all walks of life is a precious commodity that we may have taken for granted in the past. The ability to share a potluck meal or just sit down and break bread with friendly, active, fun-loving people is a joy that had been easy to not greatly appreciate.

I am so looking forward to getting back to our dance activity in whatever form we must take to keep everyone safe. I look forward to seeing my new dancers and to making it easy for them to continue to dance and to have fun as new members of our club. I'm also looking forward to traveling again to weekends and festivals. We'll figure it all out and square dancing will continue to evolve as it's done for hundreds of years.

Our community is so much more than just dancing. The friendships, the camaraderie, and the fun that we share with others is like no other activity I know. When you put all that social capital to music, it truly is a celebration of life.

I'm looking forward to each class, dance, and festival celebration again and I hope to see you all soon!

This article appeared in the July issue of American Square Dance Magazine.

Joanne Cunningham suggested the newsletter could be a path for us to learn about our fellow club member's backgrounds. She has provided the first article in the new 'Our Story' series. The idea is club members contribute a short biography to be shared. The hope is even with limited social contact we can learn about each other. Please send your one page or less stories to Pat and Jerry Akers email: akers.jerry.e@gmail.com.

— Our Story—

by Dean and Joanne Cunningham, Class Coordinators



Dean was born in Santa Monica, CA, and attended school in Whittier. Joanne was born in Boston and attended school in the San Fernando Valley. We met in an apartment where we both lived in West L.A. After our get-togethers at the pool and ping pong table, we dated and got married in Las Vegas three weeks later! We've been married in 1969, so we just had our 50th anniversary last year.

Dean was doing computer programming in L.A. when we met, and I was a legal secretary, studying to be a court reporter. Within about a year we quit our jobs, moved to Fresno and finished our degrees there. We lived first in a little cabin in a mobile home park and then shared a 4-bedroom house with other students. After graduation, we moved to Salt Lake City to go skiing. I became a court reporter there. Dean sold children's shoes and then joined the Air Force. He went to Texas for officer's training. We then had an assignment in Mississippi and West Texas, ending up in Riverside for three years. We had our first child, Allen, at March Air Force Base and then got stationed in Germany, where we spent four years. We had our second child there (April), and all of our weekend/vacation travel was with two babies under our arms. (Dinners in France, boating up the Rhine River, jaunts to Switzerland, walks and wieners in the parks, trips to Paris and Italy and a military hop to Athens and Israel.)

Dean left the service after that assignment, and we moved to Auburn, CA. After a short, unemployed stint there, Dean joined the Air National Guard in a full time position, which involved planning weekend training and keeping the equipment and supplies ready for that training. He was stationed in Compton and then in Ontario, where he was in charge of a communications squadron. In 2000, we moved to Ventura County, where Dean did some commuting to Riverside and Vandenberg and then retired, thus finishing his military career and giving us all those great military benefits.

I worked as a court reporter during all of that time, sometimes for myself, but usually as an independent contractor working with agencies, and I was reporting mostly civil depositions but also some meetings, arbitrations, and political speeches. It was quite varied, with some short days and some long days and even some nights to meet deadlines, but perfect for my skills.

After Dean retired, he worked for Haas Automation as a trainer on their machines, which included travel to India, China, Belgium and Germany.

Our son became one of the best poker players in the world (now retired, living at the beach and playing chess and golfing), and our daughter married a wonderful, very smart engineer. They have two sons (one, the brain, and one, the brawn), and they all live in Pleasanton, CA.

And we, as some of you know, continue to travel while enjoying square dancing, round dancing, golf, and bridge.

Joanne Cunningham



SEA BREEZE 2019



September 2020

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1 ZOOM Dance with Mike & Lisa	2	3	4	5
6 Fight Procrasti- nation Day	7  HAPPY LABOR DAY!	8 ZOOM Dance with Mike & Lisa	9	10	11	12  Chocolate Milkshake Day
13	14	15 ZOOM Dance with Mike & Lisa	16	17	18 Rosh Hashanah	19  A Good and Sweet Year Shana Tova Umetukah
20	21	22 ZOOM Dance with Mike & Lisa	23  Elimi- nate Hy- phens Day	24	25	26  Pancake Day
27  Yom Kippur	28	29 ZOOM Dance with Mike & Lisa	30			

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Live Lively -



Square Dance!

